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SECTION 1 OF 7

TONAK 125

FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO RODMAN/LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER

FOR DR. KISSINGER AND MR. KLEIN

RELEASE OF 116 POWS BY NVN, DELAYED RELEASE OF 27 MORE HELD BY VC IN SVN BECAUSE OF "HAGGLING" OVER PROCEDURAL MATTERS, AND THEIR "SIMPLE" (ABC), "GENTLE" (NBC), "EMOTIONAL" (CBS) WELCOME AT CLARK AFB LED AND DOMINATED THE NETS (18-22 MINUTES.) ABC/CBS W/FILM, NBC BRIEFLY NOTED, AS RZ SUMMARIZED RISNER'S PHONE CALL TO RN, SAYING IT WOULD BE POWS' GREATEST PERSONAL HONOR AND PLEASURE TO SHAKE RN'S HAND AND TELL HIM HOW PROUD THEY ARE TO HAVE HIM AS PRES. ABC SHOWED RN W/KENDALL AND SOVIET MINISTER. CHANCELLOR SAID RN TOLD RISNER "MY TIME IS YOURS" ON A MEETING. ON ABC/CBS RZ RELATED RN SAID IT WAS "ONE OF MOST MOVING MOMENTS" OF PRESIDENCY. CRONKITE NOTED RN PRAISED THE MEN WHO MADE A PEACE W/HONOR POSSIBLE. ABC DESCRIBED RN AS "ELATED."

- NBC/CBS LED W/THE MOVING CLIP, ALSO ON ABC, OF 1ST POW OFF THE PLANE, D

AND TO US... NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION IN PART 2010/03/26 : LOC-HAK-256-1-2-4

FISNER MAKING STATEMENT FOR 2ND PLANELOAD, EXPRESSING HIS THANKS TO CLARK PERSONNEL, RN AND US FOR BRINGING POWS TO FREEDOM AGAIN... ABC/CBS W/THE VERY PLEASED AND PROUD MRS. DENTON WHO IS CONFIDENT THE BEST OF THEIR YEARS ARE AHEAD. NBC NOTED HOW DENTON SON HAD SERVED IN VN WHILE FATHER WAS HELD CAPTIVE...TIME'S COVER IS OF THE 7-CHILD ABBOTT FAMILY W/SIGN IN FRONT OF THEM: "WELCOME HOME, DADDY!" LEAD IS TITLED: "A CELEBRATION OF MEN REDEEMED." AND NEWSWEEK'S LEAD IS TITLED: "THEY'RE COMING HOME AT LAST." VERY EMOTIONAL AND MOVING FILM OF SEVERAL POW FAMILIES AS THEY GOT 1ST GLIMPSE OF HUSBANDS/FATHERS/SONS. CAMERAS ALSO PRESENT AS WIVES RECEIVED CALL FROM HUSBANDS. MRS. PURCELL OF LOUISVILLE CONTINUES TO BE PERHAPS THE MOST COVERED OF ALL FAMILIES... ABC ALSO TALKED W/FATHER OF POW WOODS, ADDED TO THOSE RELEASED AT LAST MOMENT BECAUSE OF MOTHER'S CRITICAL ILLNESS, W/REPORTER ADDING THAT ALTHO NOTHING'S OFFICIAL, IT'S HOPED WOODS WILL RETURN HOME SOONER THAN OTHERS TO BE AT HIS MOTHER'S BEDSIDE. THE RETIRED ADMIRAL FATHER FELT HIS WIFE HAS ALREADY IMPROVED.

- ALL NETS W/USAF FILM OF POWS EMBARKING FROM HANOI AND FLIGHT FILLED W/COFFEE DRINKING, SMOKING AND QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN WORLD. NETS REPORTED MEN EXPRESSED "PURE JOY" AND DISBELIEF THEY WERE FINALLY FREE. ONE MAN EVEN TOOK A PUPPY W/HIM. FILM ALSO ON THE WAIT FOR POWS HELD BY VC TO ARRIVE AT TON SON NHUT, AND NBC/CBS W/CLIPS FROM LOC NINH AS POWS WAITED TO BE FREED. REPORTERS ALL NOTED THOSE HELD IN SVN DIDN'T LOOK AS WELL AS THOSE FROM HANOI -- MORE PALLID AND LESS BOISTEROUS, COMPARED TO THE SURPRISINGLY GOOD CONDITION OF THE MEN HELD IN THE NORTH...NBC/CBS ALSO W/FILM OF SVN AND NVN POWS WHO WERE RELEASED -- "NOTICEABLY WORSE OFF" THAN US POWS, SAID CHANCELLOR, W/MANY WOUNDED AND SOME LOOKING "LIKE SKELETONS." CBS EMPHASIZED HOW THE COMMUNISTS DIDN'T SEEM AT ALL EXCITED ABOUT GOING HOME -- EXPRESSIONLESS, BLANK FACES; EVEN GIS HELPING THEM OUT SEEMED SUBDUED.

- IN VERY POSITIVE COMMENTARY BY SMITH NOTED BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL

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EXPRESSION OF ATTENTION ALWAYS GIVEN GIS BY AMERICANS AND AN

INDICATION OF THIS NATION'S GENEROSITY...SEVAREID COMMENTED ON
THE DAY OF POLITICAL AND PERSONAL UNITY IN THE US AS A RESULT OF
THE SOMEWHAT RELIGIOUS EXPERIOUS OVER RELEASE OF MEN WHO BELIEVED
IN COUNTRY, FLAG, SERVICES AND THEMSELVES. RN'S ADVICE THAT MEN
BE LEFT ALONE ENDORSED BY ERIC AS IT IS ALSO BY TIME.

-- RN "ABRUPTLY ENDED" (ABC, "CUT SHORT" (NBC) HIS CALIF. VISIT
TO RETURN TO WH. JARRIEL SAID MOVE CAME AFTER HAK ENDED TALKS
WHICH COULD PAVE WAY FOR LAOS CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT. AP NOTES
RZ DISCOUNTED DOLLAR SITUATION AS REASON FOR RETURN.

- NBC/ABC NOTED HAK ENDED 3 DAYS OF TALKS W/NVN LEADERS...
BOTH SIDES IN LAOS HAVE REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT ABOUT CEASEFIRE
WHICH SOUVANNA PHOUMA HOPES TO SIGN TUES. ALSO NOTED.

- CBS REPORT ON STEIN HILL TESTIMONY AS HE AVOIDED COMMENTING
ON DOLLAR SITUATION -- "WORLD'S WORST DAZTZ FOR THAT, HE SAID.
REUSS ON FILM WARNING THAT HILL WON'T ACCEPT ANOTHER SMITHSONIAN BUT,
SAID CBS, IT'S BELIEVED THAT VOLCKER IS NEGOTIATING ANOTHER SUCH
FIXED RATE AGREEMENT W/DEVALUATION. WHILE THAT LEGALLY REQUIRES
HILL OK, IT WOULD GO INTO EFFECT DE FACTO THE MINUTE RN WERE TO
ANNOUNCE HIS DESIRE FOR IT...DOW-JONES CONTINUED FRIDAY RALLY AND
WENT UP ANOTHER 12 POINTS TO THE 990 MARK....LATE MON. NITE,
SHULTZ ANNOUNCED 10 PERCENT DEVALUATION COUPLED WITH NEW TRADE BULL.
HE ALSO SAID YEN WILL FLOAT.

- IN OTHER MAG FEATURES, NEWSWEEK FAVORABLY PROFILES URBAN
LEAGUE'S JORDAY IN OTHERWISE CRITICAL -- ON ADMIN -- COVER STORY:
"WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BLACK AMERICA?"...ALL WEEKLIES, US NEWS
FEATURING SIR ROBERT THOMPSON AND THE NEW REPUBLIC W/KARNOW, SEE
SLOW, BUT GENERALLY ENCOURAGING PROGRESS MADE ON THE CEASEFIRE'S
IMPLEMENTATION...."CONGRESS THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET" IS HOW
NEWSWEEK FEATURES LAST WEEK'S HILL-WH RELATIONSHIP AND BOTH TIME/
NEWSWEEK HAVE VERY POSITIVE PROFILES ON SAM ERVIN: "RIGHT MAN,
RIGHT TIME" IS HOW TIME DESCRIBES HIM WHILE NEWSWEEK LABELS HIM

"THE SEN
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ALSO TOUCHED ON IN A NEWSWEEK FEATURE ON THE POTENTIAL ARAB
CLOUT VS US IF THOSE NATIONS USED OIL AS A WEAPON...US NEWS
W/A GENERALLY ENCOURAGING PIECE ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF
DOCTORS.

INDOCHINA

POWS

AP LEADS: "A TOTAL OF 143 POWS CAME BACK UNDER THE STARS AND
STRIPES, THE FLAG SOME HAD NOT SEEN FOR 8 YEARS."...ABC'S JENNINGS
REPORTED ON "SHIVERS" THAT RAN UP AND DOWN SPINES AT CLARK AS 1ST
PLANE WAS SIGHTED. OFFICIALS DISCOURAGED CROWDS, BUT THEY NEED
NOT HAVE WORRIED. WELCOME WENT W/OUT A HITCH. ENROUTE TO HOSPITAL
THEY RECEIVED TUMULTUOUS WELCOME. WHEN THOSE FROM SVN ARRIVED
AFTER "LONG, FRUSTRATING DAY" NOT TO MENTION IMPRISONMENT, THEY
RECEIVED SAME "DIGNIFIED, GENUINE LOVING ATTENTION." JENNINGS
REPORTED MEN WERE IN EBULLIENT MOOD.

OVER USAF FILM (ON ALL NETS) ABC'S TUCKER NOTED ADVANCE PARTY
WAS IN HANOI SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE RELEASE TO WORK OUT DETAILS, AND

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